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CUSTOMER NUMBER: 22,852

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



New U.S. Patent Application

Title: **A WOUND RECTRACTOR SYSTEM** - being a Continuation-in-Part of U.S. Serial No. 10/374,523 filed February 27, 2003, which is a continuation of Application No. 09/849,341, filed on May 7, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,582,364, which is a continuation of Application No. 09/688,138, filed October 16, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,254,534. This application claims the priority of Ireland Application No. 990861, filed October 14, 1999, Ireland Application No. 991053, filed December 16, 1999, European Application No. 00650010, filed February 18, 2000, Ireland Application No. 2002/0754, filed September 19, 2002, and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Nos. 60/401,023, filed on August 6, 2002, and 60/490,909, filed on July 30, 2003.

Inventors and addresses:

- 1) **John Butler**, Blackrock, County Dublin, Ireland
- 2) **Trevor Vaughn**, Birr, County Offaly, Ireland
- 3) **Frank Bonadio**, Bray, County Dublin, Ireland

Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as a Continuation-in-Part of U.S. Serial No. 10/374,523 filed February 27, 2003, which is a continuation of Application No. 09/849,341, filed on May 7, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,582,364, which is a continuation of Application No. 09/688,138, filed October 16, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,254,534. This application claims the priority of Ireland Application No. 990861, filed October 14, 1999, Ireland Application No. 991053, filed December 16, 1999, European Application No. 00650010, filed February 18, 2000, Ireland Application No. 2002/0754, filed September 19, 2002, and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Nos. 60/401,023, filed on August 6, 2002, and 60/490,909, filed on July 30, 2003.

1. Application - 28 pages, including 5 independent claims and 54 claims total.
2. Drawings - 33 sheets of drawings containing 50 figures.
3. Certified copy of Ireland Application No. 2002/0754, filed September 19, 2002.
4. Preliminary Amendment:

This application is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f). Applicants await notification from the Patent and Trademark Office of the time set for filing the Declaration and paying the filing fee. Please **do not** charge the filing fee to our Deposit Account without our authorization

Applicants claim the right to priority based on Ireland Application No. 990861, filed October 14, 1999, Ireland Application No. 991053, filed December 16, 1999, European Application No. 00650010, filed February 18, 2000 and Ireland Application No. 2002/0754, filed September 19, 2002, and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Nos. 60/401,023, filed on August 6, 2002, and 60/490,909, filed on July 30, 2003.

Please address all correspondence with respect to this application to:

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Please accord this application a serial number and filing date.

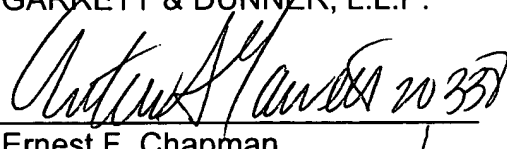
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees due and any other fees due under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 during the pendency of this application to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
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Dated: September 22, 2003

By:


Ernest F. Chapman
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